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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Transportation

# Pesticides

A Farmer's Guide for Safe  
Transporting and Handling

Reserve  
aSB951  
.P47  
1989

U.S.D.A., NAL  
OCT 25 2007  
CATALOGING PREP





## **Pesticides**

### **A Farmer's Guide for Safe Transporting and Handling**

Farmers and others who transport pesticides from farm supply stores to farms should take precautions to help prevent hazardous spills on highways. Hazardous spills not only endanger your life but also the lives of others.

This checklist is provided as a safety guide for you to follow, along with other information in this brochure.

#### **Pesticide Transportation Safety Checklist**

##### ***Inspect Vehicle:***

- ☐ Remove sharp objects from truck bed
- ☐ Check your—
  - ☐ Lights
  - ☐ Tires
  - ☐ Mirrors
  - ☐ Steering
  - ☐ Brakes

##### ***Put Safety Equipment in Vehicle:***

- ☐ Soap and water to clean hands
- ☐ Shovel to build dirt dikes
- ☐ Absorbent material, e.g., kitty litter, to contain spills
- ☐ Protective clothing, boots, and chemical-resistant gloves
- ☐ Respirator for toxic fumes
- ☐ Goggles or face shield for eye protection

##### ***Make Sure You Have:***

- ☐ Your pesticide applicator's certificate for review at the supply store
- ☐ A tarpaulin in case of rain
- ☐ An emergency reflective triangle in case of an accident
- ☐ Emergency telephone numbers in case of an accident

### **Safety Do's and Don'ts During Transporting:**

- Do not load feed or food in the same vehicle with pesticides.
- Do not stack heavy pesticide containers on top of light containers.
- Do remain alert.
- Do drive with extreme caution.

### **What To Do If A Spill Occurs:**

- Secure the area. Keep people at a safe distance from the spill.
- Notify the local fire department immediately.
- Put on safety equipment (a complete rubber suit, boots, gloves, etc.) and use self-contained breathing equipment to protect your health, or even save your life.
- If possible, stop the leak without endangering yourself or others.
- Use absorbent material to stop a small spill and contain the spill with a dirt dike.
- Build a dike of earth or other such material to contain large spills.
- Don't use water; it will just spread the spill into streams or sewer systems.



Hazardous pesticide spills occur when safety precautions are not taken during transport. Containers can become punctured or can leak when overturned.





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For additional information on the safe transportation of pesticides, contact the following organizations:

Chemical Manufacturers Association

Telephone: 800/262-8200

National Agricultural Chemical Association

Telephone: 202/296-1585

The American Trucking Associations

Telephone: 703/838-1853

For copies of the videotape "*Be Prepared, Just in Case*," send a check or money order to:

Commonwealth Films

1500 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23200

Telephone: 804/629-8611

Cost is \$9 plus \$2.75 for shipping and handling.

Please specify VHS or Beta ½ inch cassette. (Virginia residents should add 4.5 percent sales tax.)

This 15-minute videotape tells how to safely transport and handle pesticides, provides helpful guidelines to prevent accidental spills of pesticides on highways, and gives information on what to do in case of spills. For additional information, contact Freeman Buxton, Office of Transportation, USDA, P.O. Box 96575, Washington, DC 20090-6575 (Telephone: 202/653-6305).

All programs and services are available to anyone without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, religion, or national origin.

Issued February 1989